Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1- 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (original): A spindle motor for use in a disk drive having a rotatable head stack assembly, the spindle motor comprising:

a spindle motor hub;

a magnet radially attached about the spindle motor hub; and

a spindle motor stator including:

a stator rim;

a plurality of wound stator teeth arrayed about and internally extending from the stator rim, windings being formed about the wound stator teeth, the wound stator teeth being sized to fit about the magnet in operable communication therewith for rotating the spindle motor hub; and

at least one bare stator tooth internally extending from the stator rim between two respective ones of the wound stator teeth, the at least one bare stator tooth being positionable adjacent the head stack assembly for allowing the head stack assembly to pivot over the at least one bare stator tooth.

Claim 8 (original): A spindle motor for use in a disk drive having a rotatable head stack assembly, the spindle motor comprising:

a spindle motor hub;

a magnet radially attached about the spindle motor hub; and

a spindle motor stator including:

a stator rim;

a plurality of wound stator teeth arrayed about and internally extending from the stator rim, windings being formed about the wound stator teeth, the wound stator teeth being sized to fit about the magnet in operable communication therewith for rotating the spindle motor hub, at least one of the wound stator teeth being a reduced winding height stator tooth, windings being formed about the reduced winding height stator tooth to a winding height less than that of a remainder of the wound stator teeth, the reduced winding height stator tooth being positionable adjacent the head stack assembly for allowing the head stack assembly to pivot over the reduced winding height stator tooth.

Claims 9-14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (currently amended): A disk drive comprising:

a disk drive base;

a head stack assembly rotatably attached to the disk drive base; and

a spindle motor attached to the disk drive base including:

a spindle motor hub;

a magnet radially attached about the spindle motor hub; and

a spindle motor stator including:

a stator rim;

a plurality of wound stator teeth arrayed about and internally extending from the stator rim, windings being formed about the wound stator teeth, the wound stator teeth being sized to fit about the magnet in operable communication therewith for rotating the spindle motor hub; and at least one bare stator tooth internally extending from the stator rim between two respective ones of the wound stator teeth, the at least one bare stator tooth being positionable adjacent the head stack assembly for allowing the head stack assembly to pivot over the at least one bare stator tooth.

Claim 16 (original): A disk drive comprising:

a disk drive base;

a head stack assembly rotatably attached to the disk drive base; and

a spindle motor attached to the disk drive base including:

a spindle motor hub;

a magnet radially attached about the spindle motor hub; and

a spindle motor stator including:

a stator rim;

a plurality of wound stator teeth arrayed about and internally extending from the stator rim, windings being formed about the wound stator teeth, the wound stator teeth being sized to fit about the magnet in operable communication therewith for rotating the spindle motor hub, at least one of the wound stator teeth being a reduced winding height stator tooth, windings being formed about the reduced winding height stator tooth to a winding height less than that of a remainder of the wound stator teeth, the reduced winding height stator tooth being positionable adjacent the head stack assembly for allowing the head stack assembly to pivot over the reduced winding height stator tooth.